

What is claimed is:

1. A gaming system comprising:

(A) an indicia bearing paper medium having a machine readable validation code;

(B) a gaming machine comprising:

(1) a display for displaying a credit amount;

(2) a game controller for controlling game operation;

(3) a reception area for receiving said medium via manual presentation of said medium at said reception area by a game player; and

(4) a reader unit for reading said validation code from said medium; and

(5) a network interface comprising a microprocessor and a memory, said memory storing a preloaded validation number;

(C) a central authority;

(D) a network connected between said network interface and said central authority; and

wherein said microprocessor communicates said validation code to said central authority, and said microprocessor receives a favorable validation response from said central authority; and

wherein a said credit amount is displayed onto said display in response to receipt by said microprocessor of a said favorable validation response.

2. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said game machine is a slot machine.

3. A gaming system according to claim 1 wherein said gaming machine includes a ticket printer.

4. A gaming system according to claim 1 wherein said gaming machine generates a cashout signal.

5. A gaming system according to claim 1 wherein said cashout signal is generated by said gaming machine in response to manual activation.